

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15

ACDA-05 MC-02 ( ISO ) W

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P R 051200Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2741

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORNE

AMEMBASSY JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 436

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF,IV

SUBJECT: LAIRD PRESS CONFERENCE: REPORT OF REVISION OF US  
ARMS EMBARGO POLICY ON SOUTH AFRICA

REF: A) PRETORIA 1114 B) CAPETOWN 0373 C) STATE 074134

1. GOIC-CONTROLLED DAILY NEWSPAPER FRATERNITE MATIN APRIL 4 CARRIED  
THREE-COLUMN ARTICLE ENTITLED "WASHINGTON WILL REVIEW ITS POLICY  
ON SOUTH AFRICA." ARTICLE (MOST LIKELY FROM AFP) CITIES LAIRD  
PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH LAIRD SUGGESTED THAT VOSTER'S DETENTE  
EFFORTS COULD LEAD TO A REVISION IN THE U.S. POLICY ON THE  
EMBARGO OF ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA. ARTICLE POINTS TO  
GEOGRAPHIC IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CAPE OF GOOD HOPE IN  
THE DEFENSE OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, AN IMPORTANCE  
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HEIGHTENED SINCE DECOLONIZATION OF MOZAMBIQUE. ARTICLE ALSO

POINTS TO EASUM'S "SUDDEN" REPLACEMENT, ATTRIBUTING IT TO HIS OPPOSITION TO SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL POLICIES DURING RECENT TRIP TO AREA. ARTICLE ALSO CITES PRIVATE VISIT MADE BY GROUP OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN TO SOUTH AFRICA RECENTLY, INCLUDING VISIT TO SIMONSTOWN NAVAL BASE. THIS WAS CONSIDERED AS CORROBORATION OF REMARKS MADE BY PREDISENT FORD IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE CONCERNING THE DESIRE OF THE U.S. TO STRENGTHEN ITS NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL ARTICLE TO THAT SUMMARIZED ABOVE WAS CARRIED APRIL 3 IN AGENCE IVORIENNE DE PRESS DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN, THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF GOIC MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

2. EMBASSY NOTES THAT IN REF (B) EMBASSY CAPETOWN HAD ASKED FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE PRESS STATEMENT DENYING ALLEGATIONS GROWING OUT OF LAIRD PRESS CONFERENCE. IN REF (C) DEPARTMENT GIVES PRESS GUIDANCE TO RESPOND TO INDIVIDUAL QUERIES BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF PRESS STATEMENT ON MATTER. IN VIEW OF PUBLICITY WHICH HAS APPEARED IN IVORY COAST ON SUBJECT AND CONSIDERING HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S ROLE IN FOREFRONT OF DIALOGUE POLICY (AS WELL AS GOIC SENSITIVITY TO US SOUTH AFRICA POLICY POSITION), EMBASSY ABIDJAN BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE ISSUE PRESS RELEASE BASED ON GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF(C). PLEASE ADVISE PRIORITY WHETHER EMBASSY AUTHORIZED ISSUE SUCH PRESS RELEASE. IF SO, WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE PRESS GUIDANCE ON EASUM AND ON CONGRESSMEN'S VISIT.  
SMITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, ARMS EMBARGO  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 APR 1975  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750119-0933  
**From:** ABIDJAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750478/aaaactny.tel  
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**Subject:** LAIRD PRESS CONFERENCE: REPORT OF REVISION OF US ARMS EMBARGO POLICY ON SOUTH AFRICA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, SF, IV, (LAIRD, MELVIN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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